



February – March, 2005

North Hampton Community Newsletter

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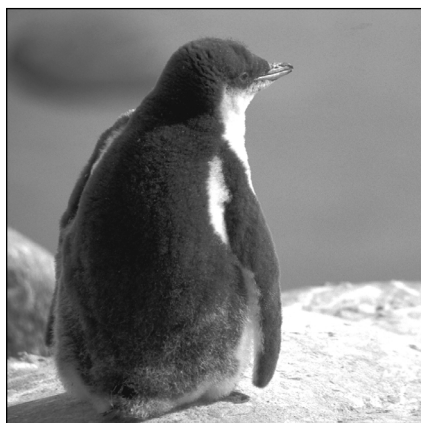
Friends of the Library, People Active in Learning (PAL), North Hampton Public Library, NHS School Board, and the Town of North Hampton

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Newsletter Contacts

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‘White Coming, Black Going’ - *This penguin is going to North Hampton photographer Terri Donsker's presentation on penguins and photography at North Hampton Library Wednesday, February 16, at 7pm. The program is free and open to all ages. (Photos courtesy of Terri Donsker.)*

the last three years, will present an informal lecture with slides that will take you on a personal tour of this lovely garden on Wednesday, March 9th, at 7pm. If you haven't yet had the opportunity to visit the garden, this up-close and personal peek at summer on the Isles of Shoals will surely whet your appetite!

~Pam Schwotzer, Library Director

Winter Library Programs

We have two wonderful programs coming up in February and March at the Library. **Terri Donsker**, who lives in North Hampton, will present her show on penguins, ‘White Coming, Black Going,’ on Wednesday, February 16th, at 7pm. Terri is a nature photographer who has exhibited her work in many galleries, and is fascinated by “these tuxedoed inhabitants of the Southern Hemisphere.” This program is suitable for all ages and should be a lot of fun, so I hope to see many of you here.

In March we're going to look forward to spring and gardening with a program on Celia Thaxter's Appledore Island Garden. **Mary Smith**, who has worked on the Appledore Island Crew for approximately 18 years, along with **Mark** and **Pam Boutilier** (owners of Violette's here in North Hampton), who have been crew members for



Seacoast Artist Association

The Seacoast Artist Association will hold its **Tenth Annual Winter Show** from January 30th to April 1st, at the Drake Farm Book and Antiques Gallery, Rtf. 1, North Hampton, NH. The **Awards Reception** will be held on Sunday, March 13th, from 12:00pm to 4:00pm. The awards will be presented at 2:00pm.

The February artist of the month will be **Ann Perkins**; the March artist of the month will be **Anna Lee Mack**.

~Barbara Clark, Public Relations Officer

Can Do Sidewalk Kids

We are a group of five seventh graders from North Hampton School. For our community service/service learning project we are trying to build a sidewalk connecting North Hampton School and The Public Library. The route of the sidewalk will be on the northern side of Route 111, from the school to join up with the already existing sidewalk at the railroad overpass.

North Hampton needs this sidewalk for a variety of reasons. First of all, the sidewalk will make our town a much safer and more livable town by providing a safe place to walk. It will prevent people from being hit by cars as they walk along Route 111. It is also very unsafe for students to walk from the school to the library after school, because there is no sidewalk. This sidewalk would increase the library usage, as students will safely be able to walk from the school to the library, to use its wonderful resources. Another reason why North Hampton needs this sidewalk is that it will promote better health for our townspeople by providing a safe place to walk. Classes will be able to walk to the library during school to use its resources. Families with young children will be able to walk from the library to the school to use its playground. As you can see, North Hampton will be a much better town when we have this sidewalk.

We have gotten one estimate for the sidewalk from a contractor for \$30,000, plus police protection during the construction. We presented our proposal to the North Hampton School Board at their October meeting and they unanimously voted to support this project. We have gotten 147 signatures on a petition in favor of the sidewalk. We also presented our proposal to the North Hampton Board of Selectmen at their November 22 meeting. Another thing we have done is present to the North Hampton Business Association. If you have any ideas or questions please contact us at sidewalkkids@sau21.k12.nh.us. Our town will be a much more safer and livable place once we have sidewalks and we hope you will support us in this exciting project. We will keep you informed with this exciting project.

The Can Do Sidewalk Kids,
Jon Bassett, Louise Breen, Holly McCay, Alex Seaton, and Meghan Durant

Drive with Care - Young Children are There

We at the Public Library have what one of our volunteers used to call a "happy problem." Our programs, particularly our children's programs, have been busier each year, with the result that at the beginning and end of each program a steady stream of children and parents is entering or exiting the Library. Our parking lot, which is shared with the Town Offices, is often very full, and the only place for people to walk is right up the middle where cars also need to drive. We're delighted to have so many attending our programs, but we do want to caution everyone who drives in and out of the parking lot to be alert for these small people who may not be very visible among the cars. I know every parent will try to the utmost to keep their kids safe and under control, but I ask for your help too in driving with extra caution in our lot.

~Pam Schwotzer, Library Director

The North Hampton Historical Society

We have no public meetings during January and February; however, we are busy lining up the programs for 2005. The March 21st meeting will be held at the North Hampton Public Library at 7:30pm in the Roberta Craig Room. The public is invited. The speaker will be **Dr. Charles Clark** of the University of New Hampshire, and his topic will be "*Pilgrim Mania in the Granite State*." Watch for the advertising of our Antiques Day, which will be held in March-location to be announced later. As usual, we will have two antique dealers to appraise your antiques. The charge will be \$3.00 for each antique that you bring. It is always interesting to find out about your treasures. See you there!

~Janet Taylor, President



PAL Hosts Parent Workshop Feb. 9

PAL and North Hampton School are hosting the first in a series of parent workshops, "The Family Mission Statement," led by school psychologist **Dr. Steven Lorei**, on Wednesday, Feb. 9, from 10-11 am. and again 7 to 8 p.m. in the North Hampton School Library.

In learning to develop a family mission statement, participants will ask themselves, "What are the values that our family holds?" This begins a process of thinking, discussing and developing the rules and personal philosophy for family involvement. The Family Mission Statement covers a wide range of expectations, guidelines and methods for addressing all aspects of living, working and attending school. It engenders a sense of belonging as all members work toward the same goals. The workshop is free. For information, contact the school at 964-5501.

This is the first parent workshop in a series. Please visit the school website at www.northhamptonschool.org to complete a parent survey and help determine future workshop topics.

PAL is People Active in Learning, North Hampton School's PTO, supporting volunteer placement, enrichment funding and social activities at NHS. Meetings are held the third Wednesday each month at 9 a.m. in the school cafeteria.

Mystery Photo Answer:

This is the door to the old jail cells beneath North Hampton's Town Hall building. The bars are just visible on the door. The two boards to either side of the door are covering windows, with bars still there behind the boards. Local legend has it that tramps would hop off the train at the depot and spend the night here. (Photo courtesy of **Jane Palmer**.)

Service Learning at North Hampton School

What exactly is service learning and what does it look like in a school? Service learning is an experiential learning method that combines academic instruction with community-based learning in a way that improves both the student and the community. It helps to foster civic responsibility in our students through active participation in organized service within their communities. The "communities" include their own grade-level, the school, their town, and the larger community that reaches far beyond North Hampton. Service learning programs have been shown to improve academic grades, increase attendance in school, and develop personal and social responsibility. Students learn such skills as teamwork, communication, problem solving, public speaking, and critical thinking.

At the North Hampton School, the foundation for service learning begins in the sixth grade. On Tuesday afternoons, the sixth-grade students participate in activities to better both their own sixth grade community as well as the school community. They are involved in recycling, setting an agenda and running their town meeting, and cleaning the cafeteria tables. Around the holidays, students conducted a food drive and requested tree and ornament donations for families in our community.

In seventh and eighth grade, service learning becomes a more integral part of students' education, as they increase their service outside the school's walls. The seventh grade class is producing care packages for our troops, visiting local nursing homes and writing biographies of the residents, raising money for the White Island Lighthouse, and working towards the development of a sidewalk from the school to the town library. The eighth grade theme is "One person can make a difference." Through service learning, students experience and reflect on how one person can make a difference in our local community. Eighth graders visit the Dearborn House, the Rockingham County Nursing Home, Portsmouth Hospital, Stepping Stones, and the Cocheco Valley Humane Society to name a few. They also have a finance group which raises money for food and clothing for Julie's Learning Center in Boston as well as an environmental group that works on a variety of projects including a mosquito abatement project and seacoast beach clean-up.

We believe service learning fosters a sense of caring for others, involves students in helping to determine and meet community needs, is reciprocal in nature, benefiting both the community and the students, and teaches students that they can make a difference. One of our seventh grade students, **Jasmine Morgan**, echoes this philosophy by stating "I'm learning that there's more to life than the life I'm living." For more information, contact **Tara K. Rossi** at 964-5501.

~Tara K. Rossi, Assistant Principal

Seacoast Books and Poetry

It's all about the Seacoast this spring, as Seacoast area libraries host book discussions and poetry nights. For book lovers, the first Tuesday of each month, February through May, will give you the chance to meet the author and discuss the book at a different area library. The February 1st discussion will be at Hampton Falls Library, at 7pm, for *Snow Island*, with author **Katherine Towler** there to read and respond in person. For March 1st, Rye Library will host a discussion of *Island Boy* by **Barbara Cooney**, a very special New England story.

For poetry lovers, come the third Thursday of each month, also February through May, to an area library for poetry readings by local poets and open mike. February's host will be New Castle Public Library, February 17th, at 7pm, and for March, Wiggin Memorial Library in Stratham will be the host location on March 17th, at 7pm.

Copies of books for discussion and more information on dates, locations, and titles are available here at the North Hampton Library.

~Pam Schwotzer, Library Director

Friends of the Library

Congratulations to **Meegan Wiczorek** and **Todd Coyne**-the lucky winners of our raffle. Meegan won the Neighborhood Basket, and Todd took home the UNH hockey tickets. Thanks to your support of our fundraisers and membership drive, we have had a very successful year. We were able to deposit \$5,000.00 in an eight-month CD, which will help in building a fund for future Library needs.

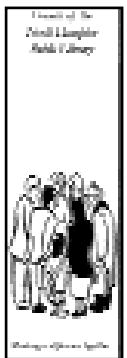
Library Director **Pam Schwotzer** would like to establish a committee that would help with the planning of our programs. We need ideas and suggestions from the members of our community in order to present programs of interest. This is your opportunity to volunteer your talents to your Library and Town. Please call Pam and sign up. This is not a time-consuming task.

We are researching to find a venue for our annual Wine Dinner. Our goal is to find a restaurant that is willing to work with us so that we can keep our price the same as last year. If we are successful, it will be held on Sunday, March 6th, and we will publicize it in the newspapers and place posters with local businesses. As in prior years, the tickets will be sold at the Library. Be sure to get your tickets early as seating will be limited to 50.

REMINDER: Passes for admittance to the following museums are available to members of the community: the **Museum of Fine Arts**, the **Currier Museum**, the **Children's Museum of Portsmouth**, **Strawberry Banke**, and the **Seacoast Center**. Call or stop at the Library for details.

The Trustees and the Staff have prepared a **Library Survey**. The information gathered will be necessary for planning the future needs of the Library. Please take the time to complete the exercise and either return it to the Library by return mail or by dropping it in the 'book drop.' By using the 'book drop' method, you will save the Library the 97 cents postage on each form returned. It is important to complete the survey so that the Trustees and Staff will have as much feedback as possible from the community. We appreciate your effort with this task.

~Margaret M. Kelleher, Chair



News from the Children's Room

Winter is a great time to curl up with a good book. A wonderful selection of the latest books for children and young adults is available at your library. Please check the "new books" lists on our website (www.nhplib.org) or stop by the Library and see what's new. Many fun programs are offered at the Library this winter to help you chase away those "winter blues." See below for a complete listing. For more information or to register for programs, please call Youth Services Librarian **Lorreen M. Keating** at 964-6326 or email: youthlib@nhplib.org. See you soon at the library!

Pre-School Story Time - Ages 2-5: Tuesday and Wednesday mornings at 10:30am for ages 2-5. Registration is required for Story Time, so please call or stop by the Library to register. The winter session of Story Time begins on Tuesday, February 1st; Wednesday, February 2nd; and ends Tuesday, March 8th; and Wednesday, March 9th. The spring session for Story Time will begin April 12th and 13th.

Book Bunch is a monthly after-school Story Hour for ages 4 and up. Book Bunch features stories, crafts, and other fun activities. Meeting dates and times are Thursday, February 24th at 3:45 - 4:30 pm and Thursday, March 24th at 3:45 - 4:30 pm.

New Reading group - Join the 'Bookworms'! Hey, kids ages seven to nine - North Hampton Public Library is starting a new book group just for you! The Bookworms will meet once a month to talk about books and explore ideas. Our February book is *The Elevator Family* by **Douglas Evans**. Come in or call to sign up at any time, and pick up a copy of our current book. Every month we will read a different book and do an activity connected with the story. **Susan Tidd**, who normally works at the front desk, will be leading the group, with the help of Children's Librarian **Lorreen Keating**. For more information call 964-6326. The Bookworms meeting dates and times for the next two months are Wednesday, February 9th at 3:45 - 4:30 pm, and Wednesday, March 9th at 3:45 - 4:30 pm.

Chill Out and Knit - Like to knit or want to learn how? Bring a project that you are working on or one pair of knitting needles size 6, 7, or 8. We have lots of yarn with which you can practice. Directions for several easy projects for beginners will be available. Call or email the Library to join the group. This is for kids and teens ages 8 and up. "Chill Out and Knit" meets: Tuesday, February 8th; Tuesday, February 15th; and Tuesday, March 1st. All meetings take place from 4:00 to 4:30pm.

The Literary Café - A book discussion group for students in grades 5 - 8. The participants choose and read popular and classic books. Join us for an interesting discussion, food, great reads, and our ever-popular raffle prize(s). In the words of one "Literary Café" participant, "Come for the food and stay for the books." "Literary Café" meeting dates and times are Monday, February 28th at 7:00 - 7:45 pm. The book is *A Living Nightmare* (Cirque du Freak Book 1) by **Darren Shan**, and Monday, March 14th at 7:00 - 7:45 pm (book to be announced).

~Lorreen Keating, Youth Services Librarian

Volunteering at North Hampton School

Volunteers are always needed and always welcome at North Hampton School, community members as well as parents. Do you have a talent to share or a few hours a week to read with a child, shelve books, help in a classroom, make copies in the copy room? Please consider volunteering! It can be rewarding for both you and your town's school. For information on current volunteer needs and school volunteer procedures, call **Tamera Saal**, PAL Volunteer Coordinator, at 964-6047.



NHCO



Want to receive e-mails about school and town events? Sign up for NHCO, North Hampton Community Online, a Yahoo group maintained by PAL volunteer Sue MacLaughlin. Visit <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/NHCO/> or drop Sue a line at wemac6@comcast.net.

North Hampton Business Association

The North Hampton Business Association (NHBA) recently organized and funded the installation of a new and more visible "Welcome to North Hampton" sign on the south end of Route One in North Hampton. The new sign was funded solely by the NHBA membership, for a total cost of \$7,500.

The NHBA would like to give special thanks to North Hill Nursery for donating the annuals planted around the sign last year; Labrie Associates for completing the landscaping work; Timberland Sign for designing, producing, and installing the new sign; and Gary Stevens for overseeing the entire project.

The old sign, given to the town by Boy Scout **Dan Hansen** as part of his Eagle Scout project, will be moved to another location, likely on Exeter road (Route 111).

This is the second community project organized and funded by the NHBA. The first was the installation of lighting around North Hill Common.

The NHBA is an organization of North Hampton business people that meets periodically to discuss issues important to North Hampton business, to fund North Hampton charitable projects, and to act as a voice to keep North Hampton a prosperous and business-friendly town. Currently there are nearly 100 members.

For more information about joining the North Hampton Business Association or if you would like to attend the next meeting as a guest, please contact **Bert Garry** at D.B. Warlick & Co. (964-6065 x108).

~Bert Garry, President

Gift Wrap Purchases Still Help!

Place gift wrap orders year round online at www.innisbrook.com and North Hampton School receives 50% profit. Our school number is 115182.

PAL Fundraising Committee chairwoman Gerry Henry thanks all who have participated in fundraisers this year. The wrapping paper and cookie dough sales in fall brought in \$12,000.

News from the Tax Assessing Department

The deadline for all new Elderly Exemption and Veteran's Credit Applications for the 2005 tax year is April 15, 2005. This deadline applies to any property owner who is filing for these benefits for the first time.

General Guidelines for Elderly Exemption: applicants must be 65 by April 1, 2005; applicants must have resided in New Hampshire for at least 5 consecutive years preceding April 1, 2005; the property must be the principal residence; the property must be owned by the applicant or the applicant's spouse, and they must have been married for at least 5 years. Elderly Exemptions have income and asset limitations. Income limitations are as follows: single \$40,000 and married \$55,000. Assets are limited to \$175,000. Exemptions for taxpayers vary by age: for a person aged 65-74: \$120,000; for a person aged 75-79: \$160,000; and for a person 80 years of age or older: \$200,000.

General Guidelines for Veteran's Credit: applicants must have resided in New Hampshire for at least one year preceding April 1, 2005. Applicants must have owned the property as of April 1, 2005, and have served at least 90 days in the armed forces of the United States in a qualifying war or armed conflict, as defined by the State, and was honorably discharged or separated from service. For conflicts occurring since May 8, 1975, veterans must have earned an armed forces expeditionary medal or a "theater of operations service medal," or have been issued an "award" as clarified by the State denoting combat service. The spouse or un-remarried surviving spouse of such a resident also qualifies for the \$500 credit. A resident who was terminated from the armed forces because of a total and permanent service-connected disability, or the un-remarried surviving spouse of that resident, qualifies for the additional \$2,000 credit. And finally, the un-remarried surviving spouse of any resident who suffered a service-connected death may apply for the Surviving Spouse Veteran's Credit of \$1,400. Please stop by the Town Offices at 233 Atlantic Avenue, 2nd floor, for all applications and required worksheets. For questions and more information, please call 964-8087.

Tax Abatements: The deadline for all 2004 tax abatements is March 1, 2005. Applications are available at the Town Offices or online from the State at: <http://www.nh.gov/btla/docs/abateweb04.pdf>

The Tax Assessing Department will conduct its annual financial review of current Elderly Exemption recipients. Please watch for the mailing with instructions in late March or early April.

~Scott P. Marsh, Tax Assessor

News from the Town Clerk's Office

2005 Dog Licenses Available

Under New Hampshire law, all dogs must be licensed each year by April 30th. The fees are as follows:

male/female dog - \$9.00	1st animal of senior citizen - \$2.00
neutered/spayed dog - \$6.50	puppies fewer than 7 months old - \$6.50

Please bring in a current rabies certificate for each dog that you license. If you would like to license the dog by mail, please call the Clerks office at 964-6029. A stamped, self-addressed envelope is required.

Boat Licenses Available

Residents are reminded that if you register your boat here at the Clerk's office, the tax portion of the registration remains in North Hampton; if you mail your registration to Concord, the tax stays in Concord. Register your boats here!

Town Deliberative Session - February 5th

The Town Deliberative Session will be held at North Hampton School on Saturday morning, February 5th, at 8:00am. This is your opportunity to come out and hear how your tax dollars are going to be spent. The warrant articles and budget will be discussed, and amendments may be made at this time. Exercise your right! Come out to this important meeting!

Town and School Election

The Town election will be held March 8th at 8:00am - 7:00pm. This election will be held at North Hampton School, on Atlantic Avenue. Absentee ballots will be available if you are going to be away or unable to come to the polling place because of physical disability. New residents may register to vote in the Town Clerk's Office during the Clerk's regular hours and up to 10 days before an election. If you cannot register prior to the 10-day cutoff, you may register and vote on election day. To register to vote you must have a photo ID and proof of your North Hampton residency. If you have questions, call 964-6029.

~Delores Chase, Town Clerk



Valentine's Greetings!

This Valentine card was printed in Germany, circa 1910. It's from the Elinor Batchelder Brown collection of the North Hampton Historical Society.

Warrant Article for Architectural/Engineering Study

Many of you may be wondering, given this year's tax bills, why this article appears on the warrant at this time. It is asking the Town to raise \$75,000 for an architectural/engineering study that will accomplish three important goals: (1) evaluate the current state of the Town complex buildings (Town Offices, Library, Fire and Police Departments, and the property purchased last year at 239 Atlantic Avenue) for soundness and suitability for present and future needs; (2) perform a geotechnical survey, including test borings to obtain soils and building information; and (3) produce conceptual building designs, and projected costs for needed improvements and maintenance.

The recent closing of the Town Hall building because of structural problems and the unsatisfactory condition of our Highway Department building have highlighted the need for this examination of Town property and the implementation of planning and regular maintenance. The surveys done by the Municipal Facilities Planning Committee during the past year have raised a number of questions in regard to the needs and safety issues in buildings, as well as safety issues for pedestrians walking through the emergency services area of the Town complex in order to reach the upstairs Town offices. It is to our benefit as taxpayers to maintain Town buildings, which have been constructed at taxpayer expense, and to plan for future needs, than it is to wait until major problems arise. Procrastination will only lead to more costly outlay of funds for the required repairs.

You will have the opportunity to hear more about this article and to ask any questions you wish at the upcoming Deliberative Session, held Saturday, February 5th, at 8:am, at the North Hampton School, at 8am. We urge you to attend this important meeting.

~The Board of Selectmen



The purpose of this article is to illustrate the types of crime the Police Department has investigated over the last eighteen months, and why it has now become necessary to recommend the addition of two police officers to the Police Department in fiscal year 2005-2006. This recommendation is made to ensure that the Police Department will be able to keep up with the rapidly increasing calls for service, the severity of crime, and the increased number of arrests that are caused by a rapidly growing business base and a residential base that has shown gradual increase since 1997.

The Police Department is currently operating with a staff of eleven law enforcement employees. In March of 2005, the Police Department will reach the seventeenth year that it has operated at this approved level of staffing. Because of the population growth during this time, the Department's ratio of law enforcement employees to every one thousand residents is well under the national average for communities in the Northeast. According to the United States Department of Justice, law enforcement agencies in the Northeast average 3.2 law enforcement employees for every 1000 in population. The North Hampton Police Department is currently operating at 2.3 law enforcement employees per 1000 residents. If the two officers I have proposed were added, it would bring our department up to 2.8 law enforcement employees per 1000 in population. This level of staffing would bring our Department to a median status compared to other agencies on the seacoast. These two officers would also alleviate the low levels of police protection during overnight hours when businesses and residences are susceptible to crime. To continue at the current staffing levels during specific overnight hours creates a dangerous situation for not only the residents in North Hampton, but also for the North Hampton police officer who is confronting criminals from all over the country while having no other police officer close by to assist.

Recently all of the department heads in North Hampton received a directive from the Budget Committee and the Board of Selectmen to reduce budgets to a maximum increase of three percent. The budget submitted after that request retains the current staffing. Based on the aforementioned facts, and support from the Board of Selectmen, I have decided to continue to recommend the addition of two additional police officers. Being a tax payer myself, I realize that this recommendation may seem unreasonable to committee members and residents, but I would be remiss in my duties as the Chief of Police if I did not at least supply everyone involved with the facts they needed to make an educated decision on the staffing for the Police Department.

Previous law enforcement philosophy gave patrol officers two very specific responsibilities: aggressive enforcement of motor vehicle laws and constant patrol in order to maintain a level of visibility that would prevent criminal activity. We now know from several studies (Kansas City, Chicago, Duluth, and others) that this approach does not prevent crimes from taking place. We also know from studies and experience that the way to prevent further crime is to aggressively investigate, solve, and arrest the perpetrators who commit these crimes so they are not left on the street to commit further crimes. While the old philosophy generated very high statistics, mainly from motor vehicle arrests, this approach did not lower the rate of crime, but allowed it to soar higher. One example of this was the extensive number of residential and business burglaries, which were at an all time high of 42 in 1987 and 1988. Other examples were the crimes in the public peace category, where harassment, phone harassment, disorderly conduct, and criminal mischief were higher because of a lack of investigation by the Department. The increasing criminal activity in North Hampton during this period was caused by the practice of taking a quick initial report and then returning to patrol to remain visible. In reality, this prevented the responding officer from finding critical evidence on the crime scene that would have assisted in solving these crimes and arresting those responsible.

Since 1991, the Police Department has operated under a new philosophy where cases are followed up aggressively until all leads are exhausted. This philosophy has proved to be the right

Library Survey

Included in this issue of Community News is a survey about library usage and services, whose results we hope to use to plan out library services for the next 5 years or so. We urge you to take a few minutes to fill it out and return it to the Library, either by folding in half and dropping it in the mail, or by simply leaving it off at the Library. (By the way, returning it directly to us is free-no mailing cost to the Library.) If we're closed, putting it in our outside book drop will also work. Thank you for sharing your thoughts with us!

~Pam Schwotzer, Library Director

Police Department Budget

approach to lowering the crime rate in North Hampton. Because of this approach the Department is dedicating a great deal of a patrol officer's time to the investigation, solving, and arresting the perpetrators of investigative crimes. During the past year, the assertive approach in investigating these crimes has placed three armed bank robbers, and upwards of 5 burglars in prison. Some of the burglaries committed in the seacoast were particularly disturbing because they were being committed at night after the telephone lines were cut while the residents were in their homes. Another burglary at a North Hampton business was committed by a father and son team out of Florida. After they were taken into custody, NCIC checks were done and it was discovered that the father was wanted for home invasion and attempted murder in the state of Florida. These are only a few of many examples of crimes solved and cleared by arrest. This in turn removed criminals from the street, preventing them from committing further crimes against the businesses and residents of the Town. It is imperative that we take this assertive approach because of the continually increasing number and nature of the crimes that surface in North Hampton on a weekly basis.

Since 1991, many changes have taken place in the federal and state statutes when it comes to the procedures and enforcement of certain laws. Booking times for arrests now range from one hour and thirty minutes up to two hours and fifteen minutes. For safety reasons, the Department has a policy wherein officers are forbidden to complete this process alone, so two officers must be in the booking room at all times. This further increases the personnel hours required to complete the arrest and booking process. As of October 31, 2004, the Department had already reached 258 arrests, compared to 195 arrests for the same period last year. In the case of an investigative case, the officer must do a written affidavit, a typed warrant, and a typed complaint, and then appear before the clerk of court to have it signed, compared to the previous practice where probable cause was given verbally to a justice of the peace and the warrant was then signed. These new procedures obviously add a great deal of time to the procedures leading up to an arrest in an investigative case.

As mentioned earlier, the current number of law enforcement employees has remained at eleven for nearly seventeen years. During that time, many more demands have been placed on the Police Department—demands that have now become nearly impossible to meet without increased staffing. The population of North Hampton has been somewhat controlled during the last seven years, but the incredible influx of large and small retail businesses has quickly caused services to be denied the residents of Town. As of December 2003, nearly 600,000 more vehicles than in 2001 travel Lafayette Road on a yearly basis. Unlike surrounding towns like Greenland and Rye, both of which have minimal business bases, many of the drivers of those half-million vehicles now stop in North Hampton and do business. Unfortunately, many of those drivers also stop and commit assaults, shoplift, commit identity theft, commit forgery, write bad checks, commit sexual assaults, commit burglaries, and of course steal cars and car parts from our dealerships. With new procedures, more serious crime, and of course a much higher number of crimes, it has been nearly impossible to consistently respond to the demands of the businesses, the residents, and to continue the school programs that are so important to the children of North Hampton.

Because of these reasons, the members of the Department and I feel that that it is extremely important that the residents of North Hampton decide the police budget for fiscal year 2005-2006, based on their own understanding of the demands being placed on the Department. With the information here and that provided at the February 5th Deliberative Session, it is our hope that all involved will have enough information to make an informed decision about their desired levels of police protection.

~Brian P. Page, Chief of Police

~John V. Scippa, Lieutenant

Introduction of New Employee to Fire Department

The North Hampton Fire & Rescue Dept. is pleased to introduce to the community Firefighter **Steve Henry**. Firefighter Henry comes to us from the Newington Fire Department and is an emergency medical technician intermediate, and a NH Certified Firefighter II. Starting on July 6th, Firefighter Henry has almost completed his initial probationary testing. We look forward to having Firefighter Henry as part of our family for years to come.

Heating Months—We would like to remind you that January and February are the coldest months of the year, and with that cold come many potential problems. To protect against the cold winter month problems just follow these few simple rules:

- **CO detectors**—make sure they're installed and have working batteries.

- **Smoke detectors**—make sure they're installed and have working batteries.

- **Woodstoves**—make sure that when cleaning out ashes you use a non-combustible container. Do not store in or within 5 feet of a building. Ashes will take days to cool off enough so that they are no longer a threat.

These are just a few reminders from the North Hampton Fire & Rescue. If you have any questions on any of these topics or other safety-related issues, please do not hesitate to call we're here for you 365 days a year 24 hours a day.

~Corey Landry, Deputy Firechief



Genealogy Workshop

Did you know you can do genealogical research at the North Hampton Public Library? Through the Library you can get access to subscription databases and other genealogy links, either here in the Library or right from your own home, that can help you research your ancestral roots. If you would like to learn how to use these resources, sign up for our genealogy workshop, which will be held February 22nd from 6:30 - 8:00pm. Circulation Librarian **Susan Tidd**, who holds a certificate in genealogy from Brigham Young University, will conduct the workshop, which will be limited to 10 people in order to provide all participants the opportunity to use our computers and laptops and to get a good look at all information sites. To sign up, or for more information, contact the Library at 964-6326.

~Susan Tidd

North Hampton School Board

The North Hampton School Board has had a busy fall season and would like to update you on its progress. First, we would like to welcome **Ralph Minichiello**, our interim assistant superintendent. Ralph has a distinguished 39-year career as teacher, principal, and superintendent. He was the superintendent for the Bow New Hampshire school district for 11 years; he replaces **Dr. Lisa McMahon** who left to return to a principal position closer to family relations.

As required by policy, the NHS School Board has set goals for the 2004-2005 school year. Its progress is detailed below for your information:

- To define the optimum structure for SAU services to meet the educational needs of students at North Hampton School:

Currently, NHS is a part of an SAU Joint Board task force that was established to study dissolving the SAU. This issue has received quite a lot of press, and much deliberation has occurred with regard to the needs and costs of optional plans. There has, however, been no recommendation on this measure at this time. Should the Joint Board determine that it will not disband the SAU, a follow-on group will be formed in order to discuss ways to improve the SAU structure with regard to our unique educational needs at NHS. We will update the community when a decision has been made.

- **To provide opportunities for parents and community members to understand education at NHS:**

A new school website is now available for on-line research at: www.north-hamptonschool.org. This website is the product of more than a year's collaboration among members of the community and the staff volunteers who, using their collective expertise, created a user-friendly website for all interested persons. Please take a moment to visit the school site. The website contains the grade-level expectations for each subject. In addition to our website, informational evenings are held to present and discuss our grade-level curricula, and to look over the various subject areas, such as our 'Math Nights.' All parents and community members are welcome to attend.

- **To build a partnership between the school and community for the purpose of enriching learning for the citizens and students of North Hampton:**

On November 2nd, almost 3000 voters turned out to vote at NHS in our national elections. This is just one of the ways NHS is attempting to extend its welcome to the community. Several Senior Citizen programs were offered in October and November to teach basic computer skills, such as keyboarding and Internet use. Our technology staff has volunteered its time for this program, and we greatly appreciate its generosity. Blood pressure screenings were offered in December, along with flu-prevention information sessions. Finally, the Board is happy to announce that Comcast has installed a free cable-access line to the North Hampton School. In the future, you can look forward to televised board meetings, deliberative sessions, and other events of community interest.

- **To review and update the policy manual:**

Policy manual review takes place before regularly scheduled monthly meetings from 6:15pm to 7:00pm.

The Board has finalized the 2005-2006 school budget and will be presenting it to the community on February 8th. Because the collective bargaining agreements with the SEA (Seacoast Education Association) and SESPA (Seacoast Education Support Personnel) are currently in process, the salary figures for the line items (teachers and aides) are still pending and will be presented as warrant articles.

~Andrew Hart, North Hampton School Board Member

Planning Board News

The 2004-2005 planning year has been a busy and productive year. As the New Hampshire seacoast becomes ever more attractive as a region where retail businesses wish to locate and developers want to build high-density housing, it also becomes increasingly challenging to plan for future growth and at the same time to protect the Town's natural resources, and to preserve its rural seacoast character.

The North Hampton Planning Board reviewed approximately 35 applications during the calendar year 2004. Applications included site plans for retail and other commercial development, residential development, and applications for subdivisions. The Board is grateful for **Ron Todd's** work on streamlining the site plan review process to increase the Board's efficiency and for the preliminary reviews of the Application Review Committee that Ron chairs.

Among the most significant applications the board received during 2004 was the proposal to create a 68-site, age-restricted manufactured home community at the north end of Lafayette Road. A unique feature of the community includes individual state-of-the-art septic systems for each of the home sites. The development offers opportunities for elderly housing in North Hampton, complies with the Town's newly adopted landscaping and architectural standards proposed by the Planning Board in 2004, and cleans up a parcel that had deteriorated over the years since it had been excavated for gravel.

Long-term planning remains one of the primary goals of the Planning Board. During 2004, the Board sponsored a study of sustainable development for North Hampton, which was conducted by **Dr. Jill Robinson**, North Hampton's Circuit Rider from the Rockingham County Planning Commission. The study of the Town's Zoning Ordinance and land-use regulations offered recommendations about steps that the Town can take to protect our natural resources and environment as development occurs.

Dr. Robinson also provides technical assistance to coastal communities about the ways that better site design and planning can be used to limit impervious sur-
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face cover, and thus better protect water resources. North Hampton participated in a study conducted by Dr. Robinson that produced a report on specific ways that the Town can limit impervious surface and protect our own water resources.

The Planning Board has proposed four amendments to the Zoning Ordinance for the 2005 Town Warrant. Following up on a citizen's petition offered last year, the Board has proposed an amendment to Section 507 Home Occupation. The amendment's most important purpose is to add conditions ensuring that a home occupation does not create a traffic hazard, change the essential characteristics of a neighborhood, or negatively affect property values. The other three amendments - changes to wetlands definitions and provisions, flood plain provisions, and building code provisions—are intended to bring the Town's Zoning Ordinance into compliance with state and federal regulations and standards.

The Municipal Facilities Advisory Committee (MFAC), a subcommittee of the Long-Range Planning Committee, chaired by **Judy Day**, studied the needs of the Town for new, renovated, and expanded municipal facilities. Late in 2004, the subcommittee produced a preliminary report that will provide the basis for revisions to relevant sections of the Master Plan and Capital Improvements Program. In considering the findings of the MFAC, the Board expressed concern about the Town's escalating tax rate, as residential and business development requires more and more municipal services.

The Board thanks the Board of Selectmen, the Budget Committee, the Library Trustees, department heads, and members of the community for their work on and with the MFAC committee. As Chair of the Planning Board, I would also like to thank members of the Board for the hours of work they voluntarily put in preparing for meetings, participating in meetings, and contributing to subcommittee work during 2004.

Members of the Planning Board are: **Joe Arena, Judy Day, Shep Kroner** (Vice Chair), **Jon Rineman** (Selectman), **Craig Salomon, Ron Todd** and **Phil Wilson** (Chair). Alternate Members are **Beth Church** and **Laurel Pohl**.

~Phil Wilson, Chair

Board of Selectman

We are fast approaching Town Meeting time again. This year it is more important than ever that all citizens be informed about the Town budget and the proposed warrant articles; therefore, we remind you that the Town Deliberative Session will be held on February 5, 2005 at 8:00am at North Hampton School. It is vital that you be there. Important issues involving your tax dollars will be presented and discussed. A well-attended session will help us to prevent the possibility that a small group will dominate the decision-making process.

Perhaps the most important issue to be considered this year is a proposed \$950,000 warrant article for the construction of a new highway department facility on Town-owned land on Cedar Road. Not long ago, we published a letter in the local newspapers explaining the details of this proposal. If you have not read it, you may find it on our Town website, so please take the time to read and understand it. This proposed project is long overdue and badly needed in order to correct the current unsafe and environmentally hazardous conditions that currently exist at the old highway facility. Also, it is important to understand that the funding of this project will come from bonding. The effect on the tax rate will be negligible because the proposed bond will replace the existing police station bond that matures in 2006.

We have recommended several other warrant articles for acceptance, but space does not permit a discussion of those articles in this report. However, we believe that all of those articles are essential for the efficient functioning of the Town and its departments. We did not advance many of the requested articles, because we believe that they are not essential this year. The total cost of this year's proposed warrant articles that would be funded by tax dollars, is approximately \$363,000, in contrast to \$788,000 last year. In other words, we have reduced spending on warrant articles this year by more than 50%.

While we have made an effort to hold the budget increases to 3% or below this year, public safety issues require an increase of approximately 6% to the total Town budget. We are convinced that the police department is understaffed, a condition that presents a serious safety issue for both officers and the public. Therefore, we need to add one or two officers to the force—an action that will create either a 10% or 15%% increase in the police budget. Out of nine jurisdictions in the seacoast, North Hampton ranks third lowest in terms of law enforcement employees per thousand of population. And currently we have only a single officer with no back up on some shifts. The increasing development in the Route One Commercial Zone has resulted in a dramatic 26% increase in crime, some of which is serious. Clearly, we have a great need for more police officers. Similarly, The fire department budget will necessarily increase by approximately 5% in order to maintain the staffing levels mandated by last year's annual meeting. All other Town department budgets (clerk, treasurer, tax collector, highway, recreation, Town administrator, selectmen, etc.) will come in at or below 3%. The North Hampton School's budget is also under 3%.

We publicly thank and commend Town Administrator **Mike Pardue** for voluntarily requesting that he be granted no salary increase this year in order that our non-union Town employees might receive the same percentage salary increases as our unionized personnel. This selfless act is but one example of Mike's many positive contributions to the budgeting process this year. At the time this article was written, that process was still underway and changes may yet occur. However, based on what we now know, we are guardedly optimistic that the budgets and warrant articles that will be presented (including the School budget) will produce little or no increase in next year's (2005-2006) tax rate.

Finally, we are hopeful that this year may be the beginning of the end of the current inequitable funding of education—the property tax scheme that forces North Hampton to contribute funds to other “poorer” and not-so-poor communities. We have been closely monitoring the efforts and attending meetings of the Coalition Communities (a coalition of so-called donor towns like North Hampton). This year a Coalition Communities bill will likely be introduced in the state legislature that eliminates the statewide property tax and donor towns. It is based on a formula that calculates need, which is based on total assessed value and household income. Only the genuinely needy municipalities will receive state education assistance, which will be provided by the State Education Trust Fund and a proposed new cigarette tax. We have been informed that the bill has the strong support of **Governor John Lynch** and **House Speaker Doug Scammon**.

We wish each of you a Happy and Healthy New Year, and look forward to seeing all of you at the Town Deliberative Session on February 5, 2005.

~Don Gould, Chair; Emily Creighton, and Jon Rineman

The Friends of Centennial Hall

There are a number of significant and exciting changes in store for Centennial Hall, and here are some of the changes that the Friends of Centennial Hall (FOCH) have in store:

We recently received an installment payment from the Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP) that will allow us to complete the Hall's remaining roof repairs and exterior painting as soon as the 2005 season permits. While we had hoped to have painted this summer, LCHIP's distribution of funds was encumbered by the state's elimination of support. We have requested estimates from a number of area companies and look to having a portion of this service or materials provided at cost.

With grant funds, FOCH contracted with preservation consultant Sara Chase who through precise samplings determined the exact match of the building's original exterior paint. These findings indicate a construction cladding paint of putty with a high-gloss black or blackish dark green for the window sashes, while the trim was a grayish-tan off-white. **Ms. Chase** has identified the appropriate products and colors necessary to complete the project. Shortly, we will poll the Town's reaction and color preference because most alumni remember yellow as the color used in the late 1890's re-painting.

The Seacoast Civic Dance Company, the Hall's only tenant since 1997, has left to operate from its newly remodeled space in Seabrook. For the first time since the formation of FOCH, we are now able to offer studio, classroom, and meeting space rental. While the Seacoast Academy of Music began offering classes January 3, the FOCH is actively seeking other tenants appropriate to the building's mission to develop as a cultural facility. According to FOCH President **Marcy McCann**, "My primary goal has been to get the community re-educated; in our mission and in the impact that full utilization of the building would have for the community. Now by opening access, many more people will be able to interact with this great space."

We have hired **Carolyn Singer**, a highly qualified, former executive director of the NH Farm Museum. Carolyn will further support the grant writing efforts of the Board, by locating other foundation, state, and federal funds for the continuing restoration and adaptation for full use.

The Hall continues to benefit from the contribution of professional services and materials. North Hampton resident and attorney **Mike Donahue**, through his Exeter firm, Donahue, Tucker & Ciandella, has provided his support of many issues involved with the building's renovation and operation. Through direct financial support from Joanne Lamprey, time and materials from local contractors have provided a lengthy list of services, repairs, and upgrades-the most recent to the heating and ventilation system by **Jeff Palmer** and **Ed Sicard** (Palmer and Sicard Inc.). Additional materials and work have been provided by **John Arakelian**. The building was equipped with the latest in thermostatic controls and sensors by Control Consultants, with work and additional materials provided by **John Donahue**. Bathrooms have been upgraded with materials and services provided by **F.W. Webb**, with work and additional materials provided by **Michael O'Shea** and **John Arakelian**. These changes have been made so that we may provide a suitable level of service for our new tenants.

As we are now for the first time fully responsible for the operation of the building, we are seeking support in the form of a **SEASONAL WISH LIST** in a number of areas and would like to ask the community for its assistance. A few of these items, along with some larger ticket items include:

Fire protection sprinkler installations to gain access to 2nd-floor Grand Hall, Front entrance steps and wing walls, Mortgage payment (s), Oil, Water, and Electricity gifts in the name of Centennial Hall, Paint appropriate to selection and recommendation, Cleaning services, Interior stairwell reconstruction to access basement studio, Elevator purchase and installation, Architectural specifications, Front entry path design and construction, Canopy lighting.

~Marcy McCann, President

✿ North Hampton Cub Scouts Pack 162 ✿

Cub Scouts Pack 162 has gotten off to a very busy start this year, and is very proud to welcome nine new Tigers to its pack: **Justin Ambrose, Cameron Crider, Robert Lee, Kyle Mahoney, Darius Marchand, Daniel Ramsey, Erich Roch, Benjamin Thayer, and Patrick Witt**. The scouts' new leaders are **Don Crider** and **Pete Ramsey**. Welcome to an exciting year of scouting.

During the beginning of this year, we also saw the advancement of six new Bobcats: **Matthew Carmen-Chimenti, Colin Lamprey, Nick McDonald, Robert Milliken, Jacob Penney, and Tommy Vincent**. Congratulations! The pack's Coastal Cleanup this fall was postponed because of Hurricane Ivan, so keep an eye open for the boys come spring, when they will be making North Hampton Beach nice and clean for the community.

Popcorn sales were a great success this year, for the boys did a great job selling, and the community showed them its great support for scouting. This is the pack's only fundraiser that helps support it. Special thanks to North Hampton's Shaws, Hollywood Video, and Harley Davidson for letting the pack use their businesses. We couldn't have done it without you!

The pack ended its activities in December with a special pack meeting at **NHL Skate** in Exeter, where scouts, siblings, parents, and leaders enjoyed some fun on the ice. Pizza waited for the hungry, along with drinks and desserts. The pack's special thanks go to **David Peck**, its event-coordinator, who arranges all of these fun adventures for it.

What's next you ask? A celebration of 75 years of Cubscouts at our **Blue and Gold Banquet** on February 12th, tubing at Gunstock, Manchester Monarch's hockey, the Pinewood Derby, the **Museum of Science** sleepover in Boston, Summer Camp, the awards recognition, and more. If you are interested in scouting, please call **Kristie Lloyd** or **Laurie Booth**.

~Laurie Booth, Assistant Cubmaster

Regularly Scheduled Monthly Meetings

♥ Board of Selectmen	2nd and 4th Mondays	7:00pm	Herbert Room
♥ Recreation Commission	1st Monday	6:00pm	NHPL
♥ Planning Board	1st Tuesday	7:00pm	Town Hall
♥ Zoning Board	3rd Wednesday	7:00pm	Upstairs Conference Room
♥ Historical Society	3rd Monday	7:30pm	NHPL, March-May, Sept.-Nov.
♥ Woman's Club	1st Wednesday	1:00pm	UCC Church, October-May
♥ PAL	3rd Wednesday	9:00am	NHS Café
♥ North Hampton School Board	3rd Thursday	7:00pm	NHS Library
♥ WHS School Board	4th Wednesday	7:00pm	WHS
♥ Centennial Hall	1st Monday	7:00pm	Centennial Hall
♥ Conservation Commission	2nd Tuesday	7:00pm	Herbert Room
♥ Book Discussion Group	2nd Thursday	2:00pm	NHPL
♥ North Hampton School Council	2nd Wednesday	3:15-4:30pm	NHS
♥ North Hampton Youth Association	1st Tuesday	7:00pm	NHPL
♥ Heritage Commission	3rd Thursday	9:30am	Heritage Room, Town Office

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
February 2005						
♥ Seacoast Artist Association's 10th Annual Winter Show from now to April 1 Drake Farm Book and Antiques Gallery, Rte. 1, North Hampton		1 ♥ Story Time 10:30am - NHPL ♥ Book Discussion ♥ Planning Board ♥ N. H. Youth Assoc.	2 ♥ Story Time 10:30am - NHPL ♥ Women's Club	3	4	5 ♥ Deliberative Session - NHS 8am
6	7 ♥ Recreation Commission ♥ Centennial Hall	8 ♥ Story Time 10:30am - NHPL ♥ Chill Out & Knit ♥ Conservation Com.	9 ♥ Story Time 10:30am - NHPL ♥ NHS Council ♥ Book Worms - 3:45pm	10 ♥ Book Brunch ♥ Book Discussion Group	11	12
13	14 ♥ Board of Selectman	15 ♥ Story Time 10:30am - NHPL ♥ Chill Out & Knit	16 ♥ Story Time 10:30am - NHPL ♥ White Coming, Black Going - 7pm	17 ♥ Heritage Com. ♥ NH Forever ♥ NH School Board ♥ Poetry Night - New Castle PL - 7pm	18	19
20	21	22 ♥ Story Time 10:30am - NHPL ♥ Genealogy Workshop - 6:30pm	23 ♥ Story Time 10:30am - NHPL ♥ WHS School Board	24	25	26
27	28 ♥ Literary Café - ♥ Board of Selectman					

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
March 2005						
	♥ Book Discussion Rye Lib. - 7pm ♥ Chill Out & Knit - 4pm →	1 ♥ Story Time 10:30am - NHPL ♥ Planning Board ♥ N. H. Youth Assoc.	2 ♥ Story Time 10:30am - NHPL	3	4	5
6	7 ♥ Recreation Commission ♥ Centennial Hall	8 ♥ Story Time 10:30am - NHPL ♥ Planning Board ♥ N. H. Youth Assoc. ♥ Conservation Comm.	9 ♥ Story Time 10:30am - NHPL ♥ Woman's Club ♥ Book Worms ♥ Cialia Thaxter's Garden - 7pm	10	11	12
12	14 ♥ Literary Café - 7pm ♥ Board of Selectman	15	16 ♥ North Hampton School Council	17 ♥ Poetry Night - Stratham Lib. ♥ NH School Board ♥ Book Discussion Group	18	19
20	21 ♥ Historical Society	22	23 ♥ WHS School Board ♥ Zoning Board ♥ PAL	24 ♥ Heritage Com. ♥ NH Forever ♥ NH School Board ♥ Book Bunch - 3:45pm	25	26
27	28 ♥ Board of Selectman	29	30	31		

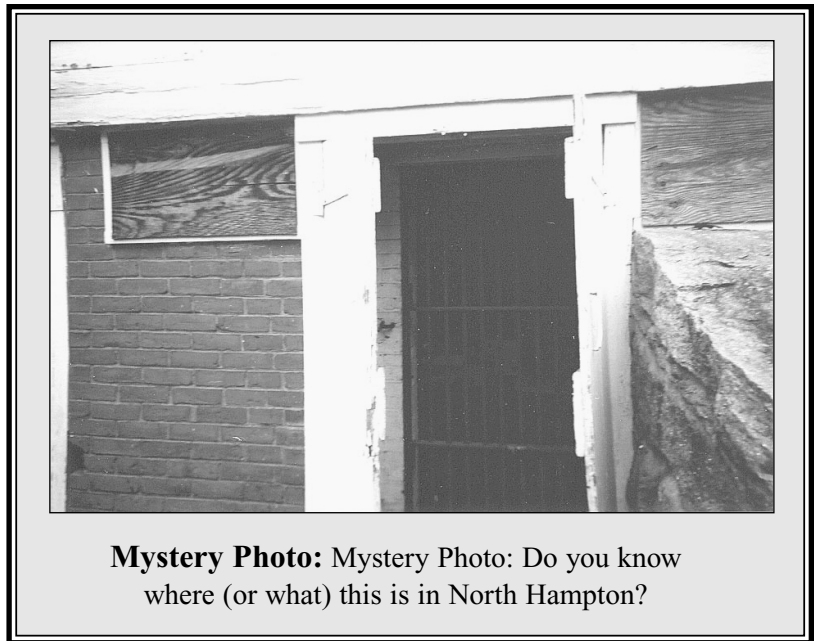
Art and Collections at the Library

Each month the North Hampton Library hosts a different art exhibit in its Roberta Craig Meeting Room. Our featured February artist will be nature photographer **Terri Donsker**, who will exhibit her photos of penguins all month and will also share more details about her work photographing these remarkable creatures on Wednesday, February 16, at 7pm, with *White Coming, Black Going*. She will be followed in March by an exhibit of artwork from North Hampton School art students. We are very excited about both of these exhibits, and hope you will find time to drop in and treat yourself to a pleasurable experience by visiting our art exhibits and attending our programs.

We also enjoy a monthly exhibit in our glass display case by the Library's front desk. In February, appropriately the birth month of **Jules Verne**, as well as the month for *Extraterrestrial Culture Day* in New Mexico, we will be having a display of **Star Trek** and **Star Wars** memorabilia. March is, among other celebrations, **National Craft Month**, and we will enjoy a display of handmade jewelry for that month. Thanks to both of our local collectors for sharing their interests with us.

If you are an artist or have a collection you would be willing to display in the Library, please let us know by calling me at 964-6326.

~Pam Schwotzer, Library Director



Mystery Photo: Mystery Photo: Do you know where (or what) this is in North Hampton?

And by the way...

The first 7 days of March are known as Return the Borrowed Books Week. According to Chase's *Calendar of Events*, this week is "to remind you to make room for those precious old volumes that will be returned to you by clearing out all that worthless trash that your friends are waiting for." It's sponsored by the Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Cartoonists. (I'm not making this up-come in and see for yourself.) More information on this and any other holiday is available at your Library.

Sponsored by:

- ♥ The Town of North Hampton
 - ♥ Pal - People Active in Learning
 - ♥ North Hampton School Board
 - ♥ Friends of the Library
 - ♥ North Hampton Public Library
- North Hampton, NH 03862

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